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ABSTRACT

This book discusses the forces that create and perpetuate discrimination in special education and provides suggestions for eliminating discriminatory practices. An introduction describes the harmful effects of discrimination in special education. Chapters 1 and 2 discuss prejudice in special education and suggest how special education educators and others who work with exceptional students can eliminate it. Chapter 3 details the cultural, contextual, linguistic, and gender discriminatory special education services many students receive. Chapter 4 discusses discriminatory assessment procedures and how assessments can be adapted to students' cultural, contextual, and linguistic characteristics. Non-biased assessment materials and procedures are described, as well as gender-appropriate assessment. Non-discriminatory instruction is reviewed in Chapter 5, and strategies for implementing non-discriminatory classroom management techniques are provided in Chapter 6. The final chapter identifies five main reasons why many special educators resist learning about students' cultural, contextual, and linguistic characteristics, including the lack of diversity among special educators, prejudicial attitudes, reluctance to rock the boat, unwillingness to expend the energy, and lack of preparedness. It urges special educators to work to eliminate inequalities in special education. (Each chapter includes references.) (CR)

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